

Could Skin Therapy be Effective in Australia for Post Operative Melanoma Patients with Secondary Lymphoedema?

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Introduction.

Skin therapy was developed in the Netherlands to complement the work of medical specialists and deliver ongoing patient care. A skin therapist prevents, manages or cures skin disorders or underlying conditions.

Methods.

Practice orientated, qualitative research project based on interviews and literature research. Interviewee's were pre-selected on their medical or allied health profession.

Results

The majority of the respondents mention the rural areas as greatest challenge around skin health and lymphoedema treatments in Australia. Interestingly, in general there is a curiosity in the work of a skin therapist and most would think it could be effective in some way in Australia. Skin therapy can play a significant role in Australian health care by bridging the existing gap between specialists and patients needs.

Discussion.

The current treatments of lymphoedema in Australia are of high quality. But as in all health care facilities, improving care and development is always needed.

Introducing a new professional to expand multidisciplinary approach might be just that added value.

Conclusion.

The skin therapist could deliver preventive education, treatment and follow up care especially for the complex post-operative melanoma patient suffering from secondary lymphoedema.

With these qualities the skin therapists could support the work of medical and general practitioners, specialists and help address the long waiting lists for patient consultations, care and treatment.